



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, August 15, 2012

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (12-3865)

Attachments: [Audio](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Vice Chairperson
Frank S. Bacio, Commissioner Barbara Bigby,
Commissioner Anne S. Hill, Commissioner Donald S. Andrews
and Commissioner Susan Burton

Absent: Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D.

Call to Order. (12-3786)

**Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
Commissioner Hill joined the meeting at 10:15 a.m.**

**Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a
moment of silence.**

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the August 8, 2012 Minutes. (12-3807)

**On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by
Commissioner Barbara Bigby, unanimously carried, the minutes of
August 8, 2012 were approved.**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- Department of Auditor-Controller

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- Department of Children and Family Services
 - Internal Services Department
 - Department of Mental Health
 - Probation Department
 - Sheriff's Department (12-3809)

Auditor-Controller (AC)

Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies of the report on Group Home Hotline Call Activity for the month of July as follows:

- **13 Total phone calls**
 - Referrals - 6
 - Personal rights complaints - 3
 - Personal complaint - 1
 - Placement concern complaint - 1

Additionally, Ms. Day shared an article entitled "The Teen Whisperer" (August 2012) with the Commissioners.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Ms. Elizabeth Howard, CSA III, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), reported that during the period from July 18, 2012 to August 13, 2012, DCFS hotline received referrals in the following categories:

- **8 General Neglect**
 - 1 evaluated out
 - 1 substantiated
 - 6 unfounded
- **6 Sexual Abuse**
 - 2 substantiated
 - 1 evaluated out
 - 1 inconclusive
 - 1 unfounded
 - 1 pending
- **5 Physical Abuse**
 - 1 substantiated
 - 3 unfounded
 - 1 pending
- **3 Emotional Abuse**
 - 3 pending

She further reported that due to system errors she was unable to report the number of runaways, she will however give a report at the September 19, 2012 business meeting.

Ms. Patricia Balonos-Gonzalez, Children Services Administrator, Out of Home Care Management Division, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) advised the Commission that she did a follow-up with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), regarding the locked computers in group homes. She indicated she was advised that the computers were not locked to deprive the youth from accessing them, however, more inquiries is being made into the situation and Ms. Balonos-Gonzalez will present findings at the next business meeting. Additionally, she distributed the DCFS 2010-2011 summary report on Exit Outcomes for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care. The report highlighted the number of youth that have completed General Educational Development (GED), dropped out of high school, and those continuing to a 2-year and/or a 4-year college.

Internal Services Department

Brian Lear, Building Crafts Superintendent, Internal Services Department (ISD), informed the Commission that ISD has an apprentice program for foster youth. The program at one time trained approximately 100 youth in professions such as, carpentering, plumbing, electrical, and working in the heating plant. A luncheon is being held on August 15, 2012, to honor a small group of the youth that have completed their one year apprenticeship. Many of the graduates become handymen and now works for the County. Mr. Lear offered to provide the numbers of youth in the program, as well as, what it cost the County to maintain the program at the next business meeting.

Department of Mental Health (DMH)

Mr. Paul McIver, LCSW, District Chief, Countywide Children's Case Management and Program Administration, Department of Mental Health (DMH), reported that DMH has recently been involved with activities surrounding the closure of AB 3632 program. The AB 3632 program was for the assessment of residential placement and mental health services

for the emotional disturbance. DMH has partnered and worked with the School Districts Special Education for the past 25 years on the AB 3632 program. However, the governor/legislature recently repealed the statute, deleted the funds and returned the responsibilities for serving the disabled students to the local school districts. This action has resulted in the complete closure of the AB 3632 program. DMH has been facilitating the placements and returning the kids to their homes and communities. All staff involved with the AB 3632 program has been reassigned to other County facilities.

Mr. McIver also stated that at the time of closure on July 2, 2012 there were approximately 550 children in residential placement and 2/3 resided out of state. He further stated that federal education funds and the state general fund have also been cut, causing the schools to start narrowing their focus on studying the children's performance and behavior in the classrooms only. A brief discussion ensued and Mr. McIver answered other questions posed by the Commission.

Probation Department (PD)

The report on the status of Absent With Out Leave (AWOL) incidents for the month of July 2012 was sent via e-mail by Ms. Lisa Campbell-Motton, Director of Placement Permanency & Quality Assurance. Ms. Famuyiwa read off the report as follows:

- **153 AWOLS**
 - 117 youth
 - 55 remain AWOL
 - 22 returned to group home
 - 29 went to juvenile hall
 - 1 termed out
 - 6 Camp Community Placement
 - 4 suitable placements
- **Outstanding AWOL's Detained in July 2012**
 - 14 youth detained on an outstanding bench warrant
 - 6 remain detained in juvenile hall
 - 2 suitable placements
 - 6 Camp Community Placement

Further, she reported the investigations for July 2012 as follows:

- **3 child abuse referrals**
 - 1 inconclusive for sexual abuse
 - 1 unfounded for sexual abuse
 - 1 pending for physical abuse

- **3 Group Home Investigations**
 - 2 were substantiated
 - 1 pending
- **Group Home Compliance Monitoring Report**
 - 6 posted
 - 4 were temporarily removed
 - 5 in progress
 - 3 remain in review
- **Permanency Placement**
 - 5 potential adoptions
 - 4 potential legal guardianships

Sheriff Department

Commander Gerald Cooper reported that after the July 18, 2012 SBC business meeting, where the Commission expressed their dissatisfactory findings during their visit and inspection of the Men's Central Jail (MCJ) on July 12, 2012, he met with the staff at MCJ to address the Commission's concerns. As it relates to the concerns about the phone contract, Commander Cooper explained that the current phone contract applies to all the jail facilities. Generally, some inmates have accounts and money on the books for their phone calls and if the amount in their account is not totally exhausted at the end of the phone usage, the balance is refunded to the inmate's account. The Commission was also informed that the revenues from the telephone goes into the Inmate Welfare Fund which is used for inmate programs and infrastructure. He further clarified that inmates at MCJ are allowed 24 hour telephone access.

On the subject of the \$25 deposit that is required of the family members of the inmates before allowing phone calls, Commander Cooper stated that he will invite the Director who oversees the administration of the telephone contract to attend the next business meeting to address the Commission's questions. Furthermore, the questions of the total balance of the Inmate Welfare Fund, as well as, the information on the inmate voting procedure will be addressed by a representative from the Sheriff's department at the next business meeting.

Also, responding to the Commissioners concerns regarding the condition of MCJ, Captain Ornelas first apologized to the Commission for not being available to escort the Commission as they conducted the inspection on July 12, 2012 due to a conflict in his schedule. He continued his report by advising the Commission that the type of force being used by the deputies to restrain the inmates has changed, thereby, reducing the use of force complaints/incidents by 40%. Additionally, renovations have been made to the complex that was built in the 1970s resulting in two additional educational classes. Responding to the Commission's questions regarding inmate complaints of being deprived access to the outdoors, Captain Ornelas clarified that inmates are allowed 3 hours per week on the roof. However, due to the design of the building, more deputies are needed to transport inmates to and from the roof.

Continuing the discussions on the condition of MCJ, Commissioner Andrews inquired if the contract to send inmates to the Taft Community Correctional Facility in Kern County would be beneficial to MCJ. Commander Cooper responded by stating that MCJ is a high security jail and it also caters to inmates with medical needs. Hence, it would be less likely that the inmates would be moved. Presently, there are approximately 5,300 inmates housed in MCJ and by early next year, the number may increase to approximately 7,200 which will eventually level off at 7,000 inmates.

Commander Cooper also reported that the agreement between the Board of Supervisors and Taft Community Correctional Facility to house a minimum of 512 County inmates with long-term sentences was continued for three weeks to September 4, 2012.

Chairperson Montaño reemphasized her specific concerns regarding the poor condition of the diabetic ward at MCJ. Captain Ornelas explained that plumbing is a daily problem in the old building, however, new toilets are constantly being installed and sinks repaired; the inoperable sink and toilet in the diabetic ward has also been repaired. Captain Ornelas further informed the Commission that he conducts town hall meetings three times a week to hear the complaints/concerns of the inmates. The complaints are addressed immediately hence, the complaints at the town hall meetings are now less frequent.

Commissioner Burton also expressed that she was concerned about the safety of the elderly inmates. Captain Ornelas assured the Commission that the younger inmates have been moved to a different area of the jail facility.

Chairperson Montano and Commissioner Bigby both expressed the Commission's support for the work the Sheriff is doing, as well as, the well-being of the inmates. Both stated they were very pleased to hear that the Commission's concerns have been and/or are being addressed.

Following up on the County Counsel's guidance and recommendation to the Commission to limit their review of MCJ's budget documents to the current conditions of confinement and those specific areas of concern, Ms. Famuyiwa, Commission staff, informed Commander Cooper that the Commission had directed staff to work with the Sheriff's department to seek guidance to coordinate and/or facilitate the Commission's request to review MCJ's budget as it relates to the diabetic ward and the Inmate Welfare Fund. Commander Cooper advised that the captains at the individual facilities are not given the budget; however, the costs of the facilities are overseen by the Administrative budget unit led by Glen Dragovich of Fiscal Operations. The Commander indicated that he will provide the telephone number to staff. Commissioner Andrews interjected and stated that he would handle the request for the Budget because his interest was in the entire Sheriff's Department budget and not designated areas as recommended by County Counsel.

Commander Cooper asked Commissioner Andrews for his business card and offered to have Glen Dragovich, overseer of Fiscal Operations, give him a call. Again, Commissioner Andrews interjected and advised Commander Cooper that he will obtain a copy of MCJ budget on his own. Without further discussions, action and/or further direction to the Commission's staff, the Commission moved to the next item on the agenda.

Attachments:

[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
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3. Chairperson's Report on Various Items for August 15, 2012. (12-3811)

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Newspaper Article with the Commissioners:

- **Los Angeles Times:
Sheriff May Outsource Space in Jails (August 14, 2012)**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Treasurer's Report for August 15, 2012. (12-3812)

There was no report given.

5. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports for August 15, 2012. (12-3813)

There was no report given.

6. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports for August 15, 2012. (12-3814)

A review and follow-up visit to the following group homes revealed:

In Compliance:

- **Chairperson Montano visited Bayfront Youth and Family Services - page 2 #3, on August 13, 2012.**
- **Commissioner Burton visited Fleming and Barnes Dimondale Adolescent Care Facility - page 18 #3, on August 10, 2012.**
- **Commissioner Bigby visited San Gabriel Children Center - page 38 #3, on August 10, 2012.**
- **Vice Chairperson Bacio visited Little Peoples World page - 25 #2, on August 7, 2012.**
- **Vice Chairperson Bacio visited Little Peoples World page - 25 #3, on August 7, 2012.**
- **Vice Chairperson Bacio visited Five Acres Foster Family Agency, on August 14, 2012.**

Not in Compliance:

- **Commissioner Burton visited Fleming and Barnes Dimondale Adolescent Care Facility located at 2509 W. 115th Street, Hawthorne, California 90250 and reported that some of the Needs and Services plans were not in the files and the others were out dated. She will return at a later date.**

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7. Commissioners Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from August 9, 2012 to August 14, 2012. (12-3815)

During the reporting period the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

- **Commissioner Andrews visited Dream Home Care - page 14 #1, on August 13, 2012.**
- **Chairperson Montano and Commissioner Andrews visited Carson Sheriff Station on August 14, 2012.**

III. DISCUSSIONS

8. COMMISSION'S CONCERNS/INQUIRIES:

- Concerns for DCFS
 - Dubnoff Center, North Hollywood, visited by Chair Montano and Commissioner Andrews - All cited sections in the audit report are still non-compliant
 - Mozell Pennington in Compton, visited by Commissioner Burton - DCFS Case Social Workers not making timely monthly contacts
 - Life Circles Group Home visited by Commissioner Bigby on July 13, 2012 - Facility was in unsatisfactory condition
 - How are the over two thousand Special Incident Reports (SIR's) submitted by the group homes weekly, handled by DCFS?
- Concern for Probation
 - Dorothy Kirby Center, visited on July 19, 2012 by Chair Montano and Commissioner Andrews - Facility was in total disarray.
- Concerns for the Sheriff's Department
 - Commission's questions/inquiry into MCJ's Budget and the Inmates Welfare Fund in follow-up to the visit to Men's Central Jail's (MCJ) Diabetic Ward, Room 8030 on July 12, 2012.
 - Questions regarding MCJ's Telephone Contract
 - What is Custody Support? (12-3817)

Commander Cooper stated that the Custody Support Services is a unit within the division that inspects facilities with respect to general maintenance, paperwork, use of force, appearance, and the number of investigations. He also stated that the inspection is similar to the SBC inspection; however, it is performed monthly and is accompanied by the Commander and Deputies.

Ms. Elizabeth Howard, CSA III, (DCFS), reported that the probation department is currently in the process of reviewing Dubnoff Center and the report is pending. She also informed the Commission that Mozell Pennington's investigation is complete and the final report has been sent to headquarters for review and posting.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

- 9.** Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (12-3819)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

- 10.** Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (12-3820)

Ms. Hanna Dershowitz, Esq., American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California (ACLU), distributed the report from the ACLU "Public Safety Realignment, California At A Crossroads", that addresses recidivism and how to reduce recidivism. She also urged the Commission to bring concerns to the Board of Supervisors and urge them to reconsider transferring inmates to other Counties as a last resort and issue a pre-trial release program.

Mr. Nyabingi Kuti, Los Angeles Reintegration Council, approached the Commission regarding the August 14, 2012 Board of Supervisors meeting agreement with the Board of Supervisors regarding the Taft Community Correctional Facility to house a minimum of 512 County inmates with long-term sentences that is continued until the September 4, 2012 meeting. Mr. Kuti urged the Commission to take a stand against this item and asked if the letter that he recently submitted to the Commission of Jail Violence be placed on the SBC record.

Adjournment

- 11.** Adjournment for the meeting of August 15, 2012. (12-3822)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:17 a.m.

